

Claims:

1. A surgical device for use in minimally invasive surgery, the device comprising a sleeve having an exit aperture and an entry aperture, the sleeve being shaped and dimensioned to permit the passage of a hand therethrough; and a distensible member secured to or formed integrally about the sleeve adjacent the exit aperture.
2. A surgical device according to claim 1 in which the distensible member is generally annular in form and is located circumferentially about the sleeve adjacent the exit aperture, preferably at the exit aperture.
3. A surgical device according to claim 1 or 2 in which the distensible member comprises a plurality of distensible sections arranged in an annular array or in a series of annular arrays adjacent the exit aperture, preferably at the exit aperture.
4. A surgical device according to claim 3 in which the plurality of distensible sections may be individually, sequentially or simultaneously distended.
5. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the distensible member is secured to an exterior of the sleeve and is arranged to distend away from the arm, in use.
6. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the entry aperture has a larger cross sectional area than the exit aperture.
7. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the sleeve is substantially frustum shaped.

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8. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the sleeve is formed from a flexible material.
9. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the sleeve is shaped and dimensioned to permit the passage of a surgeon's hand therethrough and to accommodate at least a surgeon's forearm, in use.
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10. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the sleeve is formed from a fluid impermeable material.
11. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the device further comprises a reinforcing member located about the entry aperture of the sleeve, in order to hold open the entry aperture.
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12. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the device comprises means operable to seal the exit aperture from the entry aperture.
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13. A surgical device according to claim 12 in which the sealing means comprises a one way valve.
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14. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the sleeve is provided with a lubricant on an interior surface thereof.
15. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the device further comprises means for conveying a fibre optic camera along the length of the sleeve.
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16. A surgical device according to claim 15 in which the conveying means comprises a passage extending along the length of the sleeve.
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17. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the device further comprises a cover releasably securable about the entry aperture, in order to fluid-tightedly seal the entry aperture.
- 5 18. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the sleeve is substantially transparent.
- 10 19. A surgical device according to any preceding claim in which the device further comprises a cuff located circumferentially or annularly about the sleeve adjacent the exit aperture of the sleeve.
20. A method of distending a surgical cavity, the method comprising the steps of;
providing a surgical device according to any of claims 1 to 19;
15 passing a hand through the sleeve of the device;
inserting at least the distensible member of the device into the surgical cavity; and
distending the distensible member.